

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously amended) A window assembly for a mass transportation vehicle, the assembly comprising:

a piece of glazing having an inner and an outer side;

a first protective panel having a first and a second edge;

a frame having a first and a second section and defining an aperture wherein the frame is adapted to receive the piece of glazing so that the piece of glazing is retained in the aperture wherein the frame includes a first and a second retainer disposed respectively on the first and the second sections of the frame wherein the first and second sections of the frame and the first and second retainers respectively define a first and a second recess having a lip and a recessed surface into which the first and second edges of the first protective panel are positioned to thereby retain the first protective panel such that the first protective panel is positioned inward of the inner side of the piece of glazing, wherein the first edge rests on the recessed surface of the first recess when positioned inward of the inner side of the piece of glazing and wherein the protective panel is movable into the second recess a distance selected such that the first edge of the protective panel is exposed from the first recess to thereby permit removal of the first protective panel from the retainer.

2. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein each of the first and second sections of the frame defines an opening adapted to receive the corresponding retainer.

3. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 2, wherein each of the first and second retainers defines a leg that is positioned in the opening defined by corresponding section of the frame.

4. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 3, wherein the leg of the retainer includes serrations and the corresponding opening has serrations such that the serrations engage with each other to facilitate retaining the retainer in the opening.

5. (Original) The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein the protective panel is positioned adjacent the piece of glazing.

6. (Original) The window assembly of Claim 5, wherein the protective panel is positioned in contact with the piece of glazing.

7. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein the each of the first and second sections of the frame includes a support base that extends into the aperture defined by the frame and wherein the support base has a first face which supports the piece of glazing within the aperture of the frame.

8. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein each of the first and second retainers includes a window gasket that is positioned in the retainer so that when the retainer is positioned in the opening defined by the corresponding section of the frame, the gasket contacts the inner side of the piece of glazing and thereby urges the piece of glazing against the first face of the support base.

9. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 8, wherein one of the first and second edges of the protective panel is positioned against the window gasket of the corresponding retainer when the retainer is positioned in the opening defined by the corresponding section of the frame to thereby retain the retainer in the opening.

10. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 9, wherein each of the first and second retainers includes a protective panel gasket that is positioned in the retainer so that when the retainer is positioned in the opening defined by the corresponding section of the frame the protective panel gasket contacts a first side of the protective panel and thereby urges the protective panel towards the inner side of the piece of glazing.

11. (Original) The window assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a second protective panel positioned adjacent the outer side of the piece of glazing, wherein the retainer retains the piece of glazing, the first protective panel and the second protective panel within the aperture defined by the frame and wherein removal of the first protective panel and the retainer permits removal of the piece of glazing and the second protective panel.

12. (Previously amended) The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first and second sections of the frame correspond to bottom and top of the frame respectively such that gravity urges the first edge of the protective panel against the recessed surface of the first recess.

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13. (Currently amended) A method of using a protective panel positioned inward of an inner side of a piece of glazing mounted in a frame of a mass transit vehicle window to protect the piece of glazing, the method comprising:

positioning ~~an upper~~ a first edge of the protective panel into a void defined by an ~~upper~~ a first retainer located at the ~~upper~~ a first edge of the frame such that a ~~lower~~ second edge of the protective panel is positioned adjacent a lip of a ~~lower~~ second retainer;

positioning the ~~lower~~ second edge of the protective panel inward past the lip of the ~~lower~~ second retainer; and

moving the ~~lower~~ second edge of the protective panel ~~downward in~~ into an opening at least partially defined by the ~~lower~~ second retainer until the ~~lower~~ second edge rests on a recessed surface and so that the ~~upper~~ first edge of the protective panel is retained in the void by the ~~upper~~ first retainer.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, further comprising acts of:

moving the protective panel ~~upwards~~, when the protective panel is positioned inward of the ~~window~~ piece of glazing, such that the ~~upper~~ first edge of the protective panel is urged into the void so that the ~~lower~~ second edge of the protective panel is exposed with respect to the lip of the ~~lower~~ second retainer;

extracting the exposed ~~lower~~ second edge of the protective panel from the opening defined by the ~~lower~~ second retainer to thereby remove the protective panel for replacement purposes.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14, further comprising mounting the ~~upper~~ first and ~~lower~~ second retainers in the frame of the window.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein mounting the ~~upper~~ first and ~~lower~~ second retainers in the frame of the window comprises mounting the retainers such that the protective panel is positioned immediately adjacent the inner surface of the piece of glazing.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein mounting the ~~upper~~ first and ~~lower~~ second retainers in the frame of the window comprises positioning the retainers in openings defined in the frame.

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18. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the first and second retainers are disposed at top and bottom of the frame respectively such that gravity urges the second edge of the protective panel against the recessed surface.
